

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## INCOME GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOL MEALS ANNOUNCED

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – The Kentucky Department of Education today released 2009-10 income and household size criteria for school meals program eligibility. The new schedule replaces the 2008-09 criteria.

Each year, the federal government revises guidelines for school districts to follow when implementing free and reduced-price meal programs. Children from households whose income is at or below specific levels are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. All school districts offer free and reduced-price meals to students from eligible families.

Studies show that children who eat breakfast and lunch have better attendance rates, longer attention spans and improved academic performance. School districts participating in the National School Lunch or School Breakfast program will send application forms to students' homes for parents or guardians to fill out and return. District officials review applications and determine eligibility. Parents may call the superintendent's office in their districts for more information and application forms.

The 2009-10 household size and income criteria for determining eligibility are:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	REDUCED-PRICE MEALS – INCOME LEVELS				
	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
1.....	\$20,036	\$1,670	\$835	\$771	\$386
2.....	\$26,955	\$2,247	\$1,124	\$1,037	\$519
3.....	\$33,874	\$2,823	\$1,412	\$1,303	\$652
4.....	\$40,793	\$3,400	\$1,700	\$1,569	\$785
5.....	\$47,712	\$3,976	\$1,988	\$1,836	\$918
6.....	\$54,631	\$4,553	\$2,277	\$2,102	\$1,051
7.....	\$61,550	\$5,130	\$2,565	\$2,368	\$1,184
8.....	\$68,469	\$5,706	\$2,853	\$2,634	\$1,317
For each additional family member, add	\$6,919	\$577	\$289	\$267	\$134

(more)

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HOUSEHOLD SIZE	FREE MEALS – INCOME LEVELS				
	ANNUAL	MONTHLY	TWICE PER MONTH	EVERY TWO WEEKS	WEEKLY
1.....	\$14,079	\$1,174	\$587	\$542	\$271
2.....	\$18,941	\$1,579	\$790	\$729	\$365
3.....	\$23,803	\$1,984	\$992	\$916	\$458
4.....	\$28,665	\$2,389	\$1,195	\$1,103	\$552
5.....	\$33,527	\$2,794	\$1,397	\$1,290	\$645
6.....	\$38,389	\$3,200	\$1,600	\$1,477	\$739
7.....	\$43,251	\$3,605	\$1,803	\$1,664	\$832
8.....	\$48,113	\$4,010	\$2,005	\$1,851	\$926
For each additional family member, add	\$4,862	\$406	\$203	\$187	\$94

To be considered the application must include:

- child's name
- food stamp or Kentucky Transitional Assistance Program (K-TAP) case number
- amount of family income and number of members of household if not receiving food stamps or K-TAP
- signature of an adult household member verifying information

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